

c) Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A fixative composition comprising the following components:
  - (i) -ethanol;
  - (ii) -water;
  - (iii) -1,2-propanediol;
  - (iv) -polyvinyl alcohol; and
  - (v) -an effective amount of at least one monomeric polyhydroxy compound.
2. (Original) The fixative composition according to claim 1, wherein the monomeric polyhydroxy compound is a carbohydrate comprising at least three carbon atoms.
3. (Original) The fixative composition according to claim 2, wherein the carbohydrate has six carbon atoms.
4. (Currently Amended) The fixative composition according to claim 3, wherein the carbohydrate is a hexitol ~~such as D-sorbitol~~.
5. (Original) The fixative composition according to ~~any of~~ claims 1 to 4, wherein the monomeric polyhydroxy compound is contained in an amount of from 0.05 to 2.00 wt.-%.

6. (Currently Amended) The fixative composition according to ~~any of~~ claims ~~1 to~~ 5, wherein ethanol, water, 1,2-propanediol and polyvinyl alcohol are contained in an amount of from 50 to 85 wt.-%, 10 to 40 wt.-%, 3 to 20 wt.-% and 0.05 to 3.00 wt.-% respectively.

7. (Original) The fixative composition according to claim 6, wherein the ethanol concentration is 65 to 75 wt.-%.

8. (Currently Amended) The fixative composition according to ~~any of~~ claims 1 ~~to~~ 7, further containing additives and/or auxiliary agents.

9. (Original) The fixative composition according to claim 8, wherein the additives and/or auxiliary agents are selected from acceptable salts, alcohols, ketones, carboxylic acids, sugars and polymers.

10. (Original) A kit for fixation of tissue comprising a first means for keeping a mixture of water, 1,2-propanediol, polyvinyl alcohol and an effective amount of at least one monomeric polyhydroxy compound and a second means for keeping ethanol.

11. (Original) The kit according to claim 10, wherein the monomeric polyhydroxy compound is a carbohydrate comprising at least three carbon atoms.

12. (Original) The kit according to claim 11, wherein the carbohydrate has six carbon atoms.
13. (Original) The kit according to claim 12, wherein the carbohydrate is D-sorbitol.
14. (Original) The kit according to ~~any of claims 10 to 13~~, wherein the contents of the first and the second means are mixed providing a fixative comprising 50 to 85 wt.-% of ethanol, 10 to 40 wt.-% of water, 3 to 20 wt.-% of 1,2-propanediol, 0.05 to 3.00 wt.-% of polyvinyl alcohol and 0.05 to 2.00 wt.-% of the monomeric polyhydroxy compound.
15. (Currently Amended) The kit according to ~~any of claims 10 to 14~~, wherein the mixture of the first means further contains additives and/or auxiliary agents.
16. (Original) The kit according to claim 15, wherein the additives and/or auxiliary agents are selected from acceptable salts, alcohols, ketones, carboxylic acids, sugars and polymers.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a use of the fixative composition according to any of claims 1 to 9 or the kit according to any of claims 10 to 16, for examining tissue samples for examination in histopathology, cytology and in or immunohistochemistry comprising the step of fixation of the tissue sample with a fixative composition comprising according to any one of claims 1 to 4.

(i) -ethanol;

(ii) -water;

(iii) -1,2-propanediol;

(iv) -polyvinyl alcohol; and

(v) -an effective amount of at least one monomeric polyhydroxy compound.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ method according to claim 17, wherein the tissue samples ~~are~~ is of organs of human and/or animal origin.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ method of claim 18, wherein the tissue sample is a biopsy sample ~~is examined.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ method according to ~~any of claims 17 to 19,~~ wherein the tissue sample is fixed within a period of 15 minutes and 5 hours.

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ method according to claim ~~20~~ 19, wherein a the biopsy sample is fixed within 20 minutes.

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ method according to ~~any of~~ claims 17 to ~~21~~, wherein the tissue sample is a biopsy sample or surgical specimen and the method further comprises the step of testing the fixated tissue sample ~~is tested~~ for proteins and/or nucleic acids.

23. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ method according to claim 22, wherein the fixated sample or specimen is tested for an antigen.

24. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ method according to ~~any of~~ claims 17 to ~~23~~, wherein the step of fixation is carried out in the presence of microwaves.